

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—On and after January 1, 1875, the daily and weekly editions of the New York Herald will be sent free of postage.

THE DAILY HERALD, published every day in the year. Four cents per copy. Annual subscription price \$12.

All business or news letters and telegraphic despatches must be addressed New York Herald.

Rejected communications will not be returned.

Letters and packages should be properly sealed.

LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD—NO. 46 FLEET STREET.

Subscriptions and advertisements will be received and forwarded on the same terms as in New York.

VOLUME XL.....NO. 67

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

JIVOLI THEATRE.
Fourth street between Second and Third avenues—
Variety, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

WALLACE'S THEATRE.
Broadway—THE HUNCHBACK, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. M. J. Bonicourt.

MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.
Brooklyn—GLADIATOR, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. M. J. Bonicourt.

WOOD'S MUSEUM.
Broadway, corner of Thirtieth street—TRACKED TO DEATH, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

OLYMPIA THEATRE.
No. 64 Broadway—Variety, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL.
Sixteenth street and Broadway—CALLENDER'S GEORGIA MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

THEATRE COMIQUE.
No. 514 Broadway—Variety, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

STADT THEATRE.
Bowery—LUMPAVAGANDUS, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.
No. 201 Bowery—Variety, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART.
West Fourteenth street—Open from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

ROMAN HIPPODROME.
Fourth avenue and Twenty-second street—CIRCUS, acrobatic and menagerie, afternoon and evening, at 1 and 8.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.
Fulton avenue—Variety, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.
West Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. Dan Bryant.

GERMAN THEATRE.
Fourth street—HOLLAUSHELLER, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. Miss Lina Mayr.

PARK THEATRE.
Broadway—French Opera House—PROF. GIROFLA, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. M. Coralee Geoffrey.

NIBLO'S.
Broadway—PAUL JONES, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. E. Eddy.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.
Twenty-sixth street and Broadway—THE BIG BO. SAKA, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Lewis, Miss Devenport, Mrs. Gilbert.

STEINWAY HALL.
Fourteenth street—SINGIN' SKEWL, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

LYCERN THEATRE.
Fourth street, near Sixth avenue—LUCREZIA BORGIA, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. Mme. Ristori.

GRAND CENTRAL THEATRE.
No. 56 Broadway—Variety, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.
Corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue—HENRY V., at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M. Mr. Rignold.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
Broadway, corner of Twenty-ninth street—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; close at 10 P. M.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be warmer and partly cloudy.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Money ruled at 3 and 4 per cent on call loans. Gold was firm at 114½ a 115. Stocks were buoyant. Foreign exchange was dull but firm.

THE SENATE YESTERDAY took up the Pinch-back resolution, and Mr. Morton began his argument for the admission of that gentleman.

THE ORGANIZATION of the new French Cabinet is reported from Paris, and the great difficulty is said to have been settled by the selection of the Duke d'Audiffret-Pasquier as Minister of the Interior.

THE POPE permits Austrian bishops to comply with the Austrian laws relative to appointment of priests, but his encyclical letter, published to-day, directs the disobedience of similar laws in Germany. In Berlin this is looked upon as inconsistency in the Pontiff, but from the Vatican point of view it is very natural.

WE UNDERSTAND that there has been an important and interesting correspondence between Mayor Wickham and Mr. Tilden upon the question of removing Dennis Mulcahy O'Shaughnessy from the position of Fire Bell Ringer in an up-town ward. The Governor is informed there are no fire bells. The Mayor refuses to furnish the evidence upon which this removal was made. The Governor is anxiously seeking for precedents. This correspondence, it is said, will make about three thousand pages of a quarto volume, and its publication is anxiously awaited.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.—The result of the election in New Hampshire to-day is awaited with considerable interest, for generally the parties have been rather evenly divided, and the vote will have, in these troubled times, fresh political significance. The democrats were successful in electing the Governor last year, the contest being thrown into the Legislature, and expect to make Mr. Roberts the successor of Mr. Weston by a majority over both opposing tickets. The prohibitionists again present a candidate, though last year they polled only 2,097 votes, and their reappearance in the field undoubtedly weakens the republicans. Three Congressmen are also to be chosen, and our special despatches give the latest news of the canvass. It is the opinion of our correspondents that the democrats will elect their candidates in all the districts, a gain of two Representatives in Congress, and will also carry the State.

Our Business Prospects.

The melting away of Congress from our daily life, the silence of irritating debates, of "exposures" and "revelations," the end of the jobbery and corruption which have darkened Washington for the last three months, bring a sense of relief. We are glad it is over. Legislation is done for the present, but other duties begin. We are now at the beginning of a long recess. The republican party has gone out of power, except as power remains with the President. General Grant is still potent for good and for evil in many ways—in handling the finances, in the administration of the South, in the conduct of foreign relations. Government, so far as it affects our business prosperity, is in the hands of the people, and we must now address ourselves to questions of more vital importance than those which have had such a noisy prominence in Washington debates. The spring opens with brilliant prospects of prosperity and activity in trade. If we are only wise and prudent we shall enter upon a season of permanent prosperity.

The condition of affairs in Europe is not reassuring. There is no immediate danger of war, so far as we can read the diplomacy of the hour. But the misfortune of European governments is that no wisdom can penetrate the purposes of the few men who are charged with the awful responsibilities of peace or war. Modern campaigns on the Continent have come as suddenly as a thunderbolt. The war against Austria only lasted six weeks—less than it took McClellan to march from Washington to Manassas. Just before the war between France and Germany the English Foreign Minister publicly said that never had the diplomatic heavens appeared so serene; that there was not a cloud in the sky, not an issue to disturb the public peace. And yet, in a few days after this declaration, the armies of France and Germany were rushing to the battle field, and before the summer passed greater changes had been wrought in the map of Europe than at any time since the fall of the first Napoleon. Consequently we know nothing of Europe except from the indications that we gather in the general drift of events. There has been an ugly correspondence between Russia and England, which excites uneasy comments in the English press. We see Austria, Russia, France, Germany, England, straining every nerve in warlike preparations, and as nations do not create armies to play with, and as the angry feelings engendered by recent campaigns still live in their intensity, it is wise to regard Europe as in a critical and threatening condition, and to set our house in order, so that we may be prepared for any storm.

With Europe thus looming up before us, like a thunder cloud that may at any moment burst, what is our duty at home? Evidently retrenchment in all directions! The only assured business prosperity will come when we have retrenchment. When we study the effects of the great contest between England and Napoleon we observe that long after the defeat of the French Emperor suffered from the effects of the war; that the laboring classes showed discontent and violence; and one writer speaks of the achievement of the greatest victories in Spain as being celebrated "amid a population who had been prevented by the burden of taxation on the absolute necessities of life from securing a livelihood by the strictest industry;" and he says, "bankruptcy and ruin fell upon the trading classes and absolute exhaustion of the resources of the country seemed almost reached." It was a long time before England recovered from the effects of its financial depression, and only then by a series of vigorous, commanding efforts toward honesty and sobriety. Let us in America imitate this manly course of England. We are now suffering, as Mr. Hunter well remarked in his letter which we printed yesterday, because "we have wasted and misapplied the capital of the country." The late panic was due to "the diversion of the capital from profitable production to improper uses." Our whole system has been from hand to mouth, and we are really worse off to-day financially, so far as the government is concerned, than we have been at any time since the war. The spirit of speculation, or the gambling spirit, has become as much a part of our financial life as the lottery in Spain. The protective system stimulates speculation and has made smuggling, like gambling, almost a recognized industry. The rise of values during the war—which were nominal, really, because as greenbacks advanced money receded—generated this spirit of gambling and speculation. Our people hastened to get rich, amassing quantities of paper, in the belief that they possessed money. Our railroads, canals and telegraph companies watered their stocks on the pernicious principle that values could be declared before they were earned. We planted railways through the wilderness and endowed them with land grants and bonds, and speculated upon the "profits that would come from the local carrying trade." These "local carrying trade" anticipations could not be realized certainly for fifty years, and the whole system injured the national credit. One false value followed another false value until, when we look around over our financial and business life, we see our large industries crippled by protection, our large interests either robbed by rascally adventurers or given an unjust value, upon the foolish idea that it is only necessary to call a railroad worth one hundred million dollars to make it really so. Consequently our industry, our commerce, our business interests have been strained to sustain these false values. The people have been taxed and robbed to relieve stockjobbers. This has led to a condition of feverishness and suspicion, and we find its most painful result in the fact that our credit is to-day at a lower ebb in England than it ever has been before. It is our duty to rise from this stupor, to throw it off, and to begin the spring with a resolution to achieve resumption, economy and reform.

These are by no means disheartening signs, if we look at them in a true spirit. Every honest man desires to get down to what the miners call "hard pan." This is better about all things for the business man than the condition of suspicion and panic in which we have lived since the war. The duty of the true citizen and patriot is to assist the government in finding a solid, substantial specie basis, where a dollar will be really a dollar, a day's work will receive a good day's pay, and a bushel of wheat will have a genuine value, and the government credit will attain the rank of that of France or England. But to do this we must throw aside the delusions that have surrounded us since the close of the war, and take the advice of men like Mr. Wells and Mr. Hunter and others whose views have been given in the HERALD. It is always disagreeable to say harsh things. It is so much pleasanter to say that the heavens are blue, the sun shining, the seas smooth, and that all nature is pleasant and smiling and inviting. But when the truth is to be told it is the highest wisdom to conceal it; and the truth now is that we should regard the condition of financial affairs in the country as requiring the most serious consideration; that we should begin this spring prepared to meet any emergency, and that we should drive the government, by the stress of honest public opinion, into the paths of resumption, economy and reform, and in doing so enter upon a period of real and lasting prosperity, with no Black Friday panics or Jay Cooke failures to come suddenly upon us with destructive force.

Especially should we see the folly of bubble speculations, fancy stocks and interests of false value which are being constantly floated before us by greedy adventurers, who deal with the people as the bandits in Spain by the traveller—robbing them for their gain. The sooner these bubbles are pricked and pass away the better. These large, rotten corporations, that have become a scandal and reproach to the American name, are really cancers in the business system, and should be extirpated and no longer be permitted to infest it. We believe that the American government itself could have better afforded to have paid five hundred million dollars than to have suffered what we have suffered from the Pacific Mail investigation, the old Erie scandal, the Emma Mine disgrace, the Memphis and El Paso negotiations in France and other transactions of this character. So long as we follow this false idea of business, so long as we refrain from the severe, honest duty of economy, resumption and reform, so long we shall be liable to such a panic as we had last year, to an explosion, to the injury of vested interests, to general suspicion, alarm and despair. The true policy, therefore, is to avoid these panics by looking ahead and preparing to meet them. A panic is like a gale or a fire; it is not necessarily destructive if we are prepared to meet it. It is only when it falls upon a community unprepared that men lose their reason and great injury results to those who can ill afford to bear it. By carefully considering these dangers we shall serve our best and highest business interests. Congress has adjourned. We are entering upon a long recess. It is well to look at every point, to put our business house in order, and to resist and destroy, if we can, every influence that leads the country one step further in the perilous paths that we followed during the war—the paths of inflation, speculation and gambling. If we do this now, courageously and firmly, it will be better in the end for our business prosperity, for the interests of our people, for commerce and trade, and especially for the credit of the nation.

The Condition of Our Streets.
The people of New York have paid a great deal of money for pavements; but it is so long since they have seen them that their existence has become a matter of doubt. It is probable, however, that there are pavements somewhere, though at what depth is unknown. Anxious to throw some light upon the subject we publish to-day an important letter from Mr. Van Nort to Mayor Wickham, in which the cost of repairing the pavements during the last three years is examined and their supposed condition vividly described. It has been a long while since Mr. Van Nort has seen any pavements in this buried city; but they have certainly not been improved by the mud and snow and water. We would not wonder if some of the experimental wooden and asphalt outrages should be found to have vanished entirely when the excavation of the city is completed in the spring. We predict also that a large number of dogs, horses, carts, carriages, children and a few street cleaners who have mysteriously disappeared this winter will be found buried in holes along the avenues. Mr. Van Nort's letter does not treat as fully as could be wished of this branch of the subject, but he clearly proves that the condition of our streets is a standing reproach to a great and progressive community, and suggests practical methods for the improvement.

The Case of Sharkey.
The fact that a convicted and condemned murderer, under sentence of death, should be allowed to remain at large in a neighboring island is exciting much comment. We do not know exactly the attitude of the administration on this subject, but Secretary Fish is certainly aware of the circumstances attending the return of Bidwell, the forger, to the English government, and his sentence afterward to imprisonment for life. Bidwell was an American citizen, and, although there was no extradition treaty between England and Spain, he was given up by President Castelar at the request of the British government and the Bank of England. It was an act of comity, although Bidwell was only under indictment and had not been convicted of any offence. Here is a murderer, convicted and condemned, a far more aggravating case. Why should not the American government ask from Spain a country that was shown to England? A suggestion has been made that a request from Governor Tilden to the Captain General of Havana would succeed in obtaining Sharkey's return; but we question whether the Governor would have authority to do this.

THE ROYAL BOY who is supposed to govern Spain is weary of the task, and our special cable despatches announce that he is with great difficulty prevented from abdicating in favor of the Duke de Montpensier. In the meanwhile the Carlist war continues, with a battle near Figueras and a bombardment of Oriu.

THE DEFICIENCY OF WATER in the lower part of the city and in that elevated portion of the island known as Murray Hill is not only a constant inconvenience but a danger. Mr. Van Nort and Mr. Tracy, the Chief Engineer, have recommended plans for an increased water supply which it would be well for the Mayor and the Legislature to consider.

Andrew Johnson in the Senate.

The interview with Mr. Johnson sent by one of our Washington correspondents and printed in the HERALD yesterday will correct a prevailing misconception. It has been generally expected that Mr. Johnson's return to the Senate would bring into that body an element of aggressive pugnacity, and that his resentful sense of what he endured from the republican party while President would impel him to pay off old scores. He takes pains to disavow all such purpose. He regards his Senatorial position as a responsible public trust, to which he would be recreant if he descended to any sort of bravado or used it to chastise his old enemies. Nothing could be in a better tone than this statement:—"And now I want the HERALD to correct one thing for me. An impression has gone abroad that I come here to avenge my private grievances, to redress personal injuries. It is not so. I have now no wrongs to redress but my country's. My election settled all personal injuries ever inflicted. I consider that triumph sufficient and bury all of my grievances behind it. I come now to deal only with present issues. Of course, if any of my acts while President were attacked it might be necessary at some time to defend myself; but that aside, I come here not as a party man, but entirely independent."

The course which the ex-President has marked out for himself is entirely consistent with his former record as a Senator. The most honorable part of Mr. Johnson's career is his service in the Senate. It was in that theatre that he made the high reputation to which he added nothing while exercising a higher office. In his speeches as Senator there was none of the intemperate invective in which he indulged so freely and unwisely in occasional addresses while he was President. He was indeed very decided in his views, very plain and outspoken in his language, but he always kept within the limits of parliamentary decorum and avoided personal controversies. His Senatorial speeches were clear, logical, cogent, and won for him a favorable national reputation. His conduct as Military Governor of Tennessee during the war neither added to nor detracted from the previous high estimate of his character. When he was nominated for Vice President, on the same ticket with Mr. Lincoln in 1864, the *Evening Post* expressed its opinion that the Convention would have done better had it reversed the order of the names and nominated Mr. Johnson for President. We recall this circumstance merely as showing the estimation in which Mr. Johnson was held at that time. Soon after the assassination of President Lincoln there was a great Unitarian festival in this city, at which Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, was the principal speaker. He spoke quite at length on the then critical position of national affairs, and regarded it as an interpolation of Divine Providence that a man of more vigor than Mr. Lincoln had been brought to the head of the government in so important a conjuncture. Governor Andrew's estimate, like that of the *Evening Post*, was founded on Mr. Johnson's career as a Senator. It cannot be disputed that his Presidency was a failure; but the fact that his previous service in the Senate created a strong impression of his eminent fitness for the highest office is a strong testimony to his distinguished ability as a Senator. If he adheres to the intention which he expressed to our correspondent in the interview he will easily recover the good opinion he lost in a position for which he was not so well fitted.

Peter B.

The announcement that the cable rates will be reduced on the 1st of May to fifty cents a word may not be without its effect in the economical administration of Tammany Hall. Matters are becoming so perplexing in our local politics that this fact may be of great importance. It is very evident that there should be some communication with Peter B. We believe he is in Paris; but there could be no substantial difficulty in finding out his whereabouts. Ex-Senator Bradley, who keeps one of the largest livery stables in the world, somewhere up town, would not be altogether without information.

Peter B. would have better discipline in Albany. This business of a dozen Senators running around, each with bills for "reorganizing the government," with schemes for the regeneration of New York, shows a want of discipline and harmony. Peter B. would prepare one bill and pass it.

Peter B. would not have given the most important office in the control of Tammany Hall to one of the darlings of the Manhattan Club. Peter B. knows that the Manhattan Club is good for about one hundred votes when it votes, which depends largely upon the weather. He would have, of course, satisfied the Manhattan Club and nominated Fitz John Porter to some very high office—say Grand Supervising Commissioner of Steeples—and paid him well for it; for if he could not have got the money on a supply bill Garvey, Ingersoll or Keyser or some of the thieves would have furnished it. But he would never have appointed Fitz John Porter to dispense the patronage of Tammany Hall. Manhattan Club can be managed without patronage.

Peter B. would have discouraged the tendency of the Mayor to correspond with Governor Tilden upon all questions. "Have no money dealings with my father," says Martha to Lord Glenarvoch in the "Fortunes of Nigel," "for, God forbid as he is, he will make an ass of you." Peter B. could have informed Mayor Wickham that in the matter of correspondence Governor Tilden can surpass any man in this generation. Peter B. knows that letter writing never comes to any good. A great statesman during the Tweed empire never wrote letters. Such a man as Hon. Michael Angelo Norton, then top rail rooster, of the Eighth ward, never wrote a letter in his life.

Peter B. would, from the results of his larger experience, insist that there should be a complete separation between the judiciary and politics, and that the patronage of the courts should not become a part of the patronage of Tammany Hall. When politicians ask favors of judges they are expected to reciprocate. This is not always best.

It might be more economical for Peter B. to come home; but, of course, it is not for us to intrude upon the retirement of the vanished statesman. He is probably waiting until events suggest the propriety of founding a new Committee of Seventy. But, certainly, as things are going now, unless the advice of

some such leader as Peter B. is taken, we shall have a livelier St. Patrick's Day in New York politics than has been seen since the time of Donnybrook Fair.

Christian Statesmen.

Mr. Senator McMillan, of Minnesota, begins his career in Congress with an affection of Christian statesmanship which is sufficient cause for a good deal of anxiety and alarm on the part of his friends. We have had Christian statesmen before, but they did not turn out well. Most of them were too good for public affairs, and when brought into contact with the rugged edges of the world they yielded to temptation more readily than the more worldly minded. They were not Pecksniffs exactly, but united in one personality the conglomerate hypocrisies of Chadban, the oily, and Oily Gannon. They professed old-fashioned notions in matters of faith and doctrine, and talked of the Sabbath day with a peculiar intonation. Mr. McMillan seems like them. He is mildly surprised that people in Washington talk politics on Sunday, but sternly refuses to indulge in like dissipation himself. He even declines to give his views to the HERALD on Sunday, and hints at the awful moral depravity of our correspondent by suggesting that he must become more demoralized than he now is before he will consent to debase the Lord's day by mere worldly conversation. This is a very high plane for a young Senator to occupy. Few men can hope to reach Mr. McMillan's level, as none, we believe, ever attempted to attain the perfection and grace of Mr. Colfax. Still we had hoped that when Colfax was lost to us the race of "Christian statesmen" had died out. They need so much watching. They have such innocent ways of doing things which ordinary sinners would not do at all. Their subsequent explanations are so childlike and bland. As a matter of course Mr. McMillan is not one of them, measured according to the Colfax standard, but he shows a sad want of taste in emulating the Colfax example. It always was the practice of mankind to distrust the "unco gude," and the young Senator from Minnesota ought to know that since Colfax's time it has been the custom of the American people to distrust the "Christian statesman."

General Wimpfen and the Bonapartists.

Once more the battle of Sedan has been fought over; this time not between the French and the Prussians, but between the adherents of the imperial dynasty and an adverse public opinion. It is apparently the *mot d'ordre* in the imperial party that no endeavors should be spared that promise in any degree whatever to relieve the late Emperor of the fearful responsibility of the defeat and surrender which placed France at the feet of her enemy. It is conceived with some distinctness by the Bonapartists that the odium of that day must be cleared from the escutcheon of the dynasty before it can be trusted by a nation that lives in no other element of its life so much as in its pride. Up to this time the Bonapartists have found no more satisfactory plan for saving the fame of the dead Emperor than that of sacrificing General Wimpfen, who was in command. M. Cassagne, editor of the *Pays*, and writing in the interests of the imperial party, wrote against General Wimpfen in this spirit, holding him alone responsible for the calamity. General Wimpfen, months ago, appealed to the civil tribunals in a suit for damages. On that occasion the Court decided it had no jurisdiction, because, as the General was a public functionary, if any actionable words had been published against him it was a criminal act and must be tried by the criminal courts. Suit was, therefore, brought in the courts for the punishment of Cassagne, and after the whole ground has been gone over he has been acquitted. But does this prove that Wimpfen and not the Emperor is responsible for Sedan? Far from it. It appears to have been the judgment of the Court that Wimpfen's incapacity was such as to remove from him all sympathy and to justify any criticism that the severest writer might utter; but this only proves one more imperial general to have been as worthless as all those hitherto exposed. It will prove but little for the Bonapartists if they can even show, as clearly they can, that for General Wimpfen they might have retreated with more or less success from that inglorious trap into which their Emperor had taken them. All the responsibility of the disaster rests upon him, who, knowing that his march thither was in violation of all military principle, carried his army forward because it was demanded by the political difficulties of his dynasty; and this, by his own acknowledgment, was Napoleon III.

THE TRANSIT OF VENUS.—The only remaining party of American observers hitherto unheard from has at length communicated from the wild and far-off shores of Kerguelen the joyful tidings of perfect success in observing the planet's journey across the solar disk. Owing to the fury of the elements around that inhospitable region but faint hopes were cherished that the scientists there could view the celestial wonder under such bright auspices as those vouchsafed beneath the sun of calmer climes. The special telegraphic despatch we publish to-day will be read with uncommon pleasure by the votaries of science, inasmuch as it furnishes the missing link in the story of our American expeditions and gives the assurance that the work of the astronomers is to be crowned by the patient and victorious labors of the observers on the romantic Island of Desolation.

OUR ALBANY LETTER contains interesting political news relative to the arrival of Senator Woodin at the capital and another cloud of war in the Legislature.

TO-DAY CORNER KESLER will begin the investigation of the Stockis case, and it is to be hoped it will be thorough and impartial. The newly discovered facts in respect to the death of Mr. Stockis are published elsewhere, and have an interest for all citizens.

THE RAPID TRANSIT MEETINGS.—The difficulties of obtaining rapid transit are indicated in our report of the meetings of its friends yesterday. There was one meeting of the subscribers to the deferred capital fund and one of the Executive Committee of the Citizen's Rapid Transit Association. The reported opposition of some of the great capitalists is a serious obstacle to success, and it certainly shows a short-sighted and mistaken policy.

We are rejoiced to say that practical measures for advancing the project were adopted by both meetings.

A New Precedent.

A few days since Governor Tilden appointed one of our citizens to be Civil Justice "in place of Stemmler, deceased." It was discovered after the appointment that the Governor had been misinformed, and that Justice Stemmler was not dead. There have been some amusing criticisms upon the haste shown in making the appointment. We think our contemporaries have failed to see the exact meaning of the Governor's action. The Governor comprehends the embarrassments of our local politics, the difficulty of harmonizing all parties, the stubbornness of Comptroller Green, the anxieties and irritation. He has resolved upon a new departure. The value of this will be seen when we study carefully this appointment as a precedent. The Governor certifies that Mr. Stemmler is dead. A sealed instrument cannot be altered by any parole evidence, hence any statement that Stemmler is alive cannot for a moment weigh against the Governor's legal formula. As a matter of law, therefore, Justice Stemmler is dead.

Lord Bacon says that the common sense of common men is better than the wisdom of the wisest men. Common sense, which is the common law, which is the gathered wisdom of a thousand years, will determine that when a Governor pronounces an officer dead there can be no appeal from his decision. Now, see the value of this precedent. The Governor, having by this appointment established the fact that a sealed instrument really contains the power of life and death, may proceed to solve all the perplexing problems of New York politics. He could appoint Arthur Leary Comptroller "in place of Green, deceased," and no appeal in the world could deny the fact, thus solemnly set forth, that Green is dead—and what a comfort that would be to the community! He might nominate William M. Everts to be Corporation Counsel "in place of Smith, deceased." Smith might write a thousand columns of letters and arguments to the contrary, but the sealed instrument would stand. And so with the Fire Commissioners and boards of jurisdiction and administration. Even the Mayor himself, if he did not prove docile and was disposed to rebel too frequently, could be killed. The Governor would simply recite, in an official instrument, that he appointed John Kelly or Charles O'Connor to be Mayor "in place of Wickham, deceased." There would be no help for it.

So that, instead of the Governor having made a blunder in appointing a Civil Justice "in place of Stemmler, deceased," while Stemmler still lived, he was merely creating a solemn and important precedent. Governor Tilden thus shows himself to be not a hackneyed statesman—like many of our fellow citizens who held office under Tweed and who now work on the Fourth Avenue Improvement—but a wise, original and sagacious Governor, afraid of no responsibility.

THE DEATHS of two centenarians are reported from Baltimore, one of whom had lived to the remarkable age of one hundred and seventeen years. If the native vitality is strong the flame of life burns long, when shielded and protected by constant care.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Professor W. P. Blake, of New Haven, is staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Hon. William C. Maxwell, of England, is among the late arrivals at the Brevoort House.
It cost Cousin John Bull just \$2,195 83 to make the Shah of Persia a Knight of the Garter.
Congressman John A. Whitehouse, of Poughkeepsie, is residing at the Albemarle Hotel.
Rome has given Garibaldi "a splendid villa," but he cannot be induced to wear white shirts.
General George J. Mages, of Schuylker county, New York, is stopping at the Metropolitan Hotel.
Assistant Attorney General E. C. Bradley, of Washington, is sojourning at the St. James Hotel.
Assemblyman Warner Miller, of Herkimer county, New York, is registered at the Union Square Hotel.
Grant republicans are very happy to hear that Andy Johnson has "no enemies to punish;" but they must not take too much comfort in it.
In England they "compound felonies" also. The Earl of Dudley has paid the thieves who stole his wife's jewels \$40,000 and recovered the jewels.
Score one for Grant. He killed the bill for additional bounties—which was a job of claim agents covered by the claptrap patriotism of Logan & Co.

No more coins for the Pope to be made at the Italian mint; but Brussels, ever ready to turn an honest penny, will turn them out for the Pope or any one else.
Softly! Softly! It is announced that Isabelle will not return to Spain. On, no! not in July, perhaps, and for a little while, she will run down there "to visit her son."
Ex-Congressman Ellis H. Roberts, of New York, J. Hale Sypher, of Louisiana, and T. T. Crittenden, of Missouri, arrived from Washington yesterday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.
Colonel Hoffman, the new Secretary of Legation at London, was presented at Court on February 22. The levee was held by the Prince of Wales, but by command of the Queen such a presentation is considered equivalent to a presentation to Her Majesty.

Nen of the Alpine clubs had there is so little oxygen in the air at great altitudes that they propose to carry some with them in bags. Perhaps, therefore, there is more oxygen in low places, and this accounts for the impulse of average humanity to go that way.
In Switzerland, in the Canton of Uri, the condition of the snow is such that isolated villages will be blocked up till July unless there is an unusually early thaw. "Souls are ripeared in the northern sky," but people had better have them half ripe than live there.

Fancy what the Empire did for France. Before the auspicious period of its advent a woman's hair was worth only four francs a pound. Now the commonest article is worth fifty-two francs a pound, and sometimes a single head of high quality is worth two thousand francs. *Vive l'Empire!*

In one of the English military prisons there is a man who has deserted eight times. He could neither live out of the army nor in it. Every time he deserted he enlisted in some other regiment—except once that he took to the water and became a marine. Whenever he found desertion monotonous he surrendered himself to some one of his former regiments and accepted the punishment.

Pierson-Boss, an eccentric republican, once a favored acolyte of Gambetta, has been "invited" by the authorities to leave Belgium. The reason for this attention is that when on the day of the marriage of the Princess Royal the King came out on the balcony of the Royal Palace as the multitude cheered him, Pierson-Boss, who was on the top of an omnibus, kissed at his Majesty.

The thieves of Europe, more progressive than the politicians, have united the several countries in a species of confederacy that recognizes no national frontiers and steals in every language. Theft is more progressive than pure politics, and perhaps the true cause why we are ahead of all other nations is that all our politicians are half thieves and half our thieves are politicians.